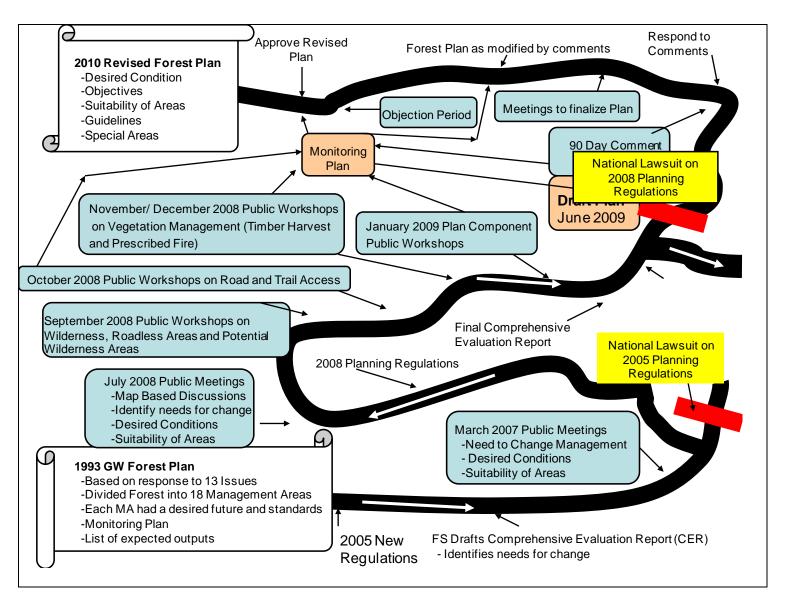


Welcome to our workshop as we re-start the revision of the GW Forest Plan



This is the road map from previous presentations. We have now decided to use the 1982 planning regulations which are the same as the regulations we have used previously in developing the previous versions and revisions of the Jefferson and GW.

George Washington National Forest Plan Revision

1982 Planning Regulations

- •Environmental Impact Statement
- •Standards, rather than guidelines
- •Regional Forester is Responsible Official
- Species Viability Analysis

Some of the major changes in going back to the 1982 regulations are the following:

Environmental Impact Statement

- Notice of Intent
- Scoping
- · Significant Issues
- Alternatives
- Environmental Effects
- Draft EIS (accompanies Draft Plan)
- Final EIS (accompanies Final Plan)
- · Record of Decision

Here are the steps in the process of preparing an EIS.

The purpose of the EIS is to provide a fair and full discussion of the environmental impacts of the broadscale, strategic direction of the Forest Plan and to inform the decisionmaker and the public of the tradeoffs and consequences of the alternatives being considered to address significant issues.

Forest Plan Decisions

Multiple-use goals and objectives

Management area prescriptions and standards

Land suitability for production of timber

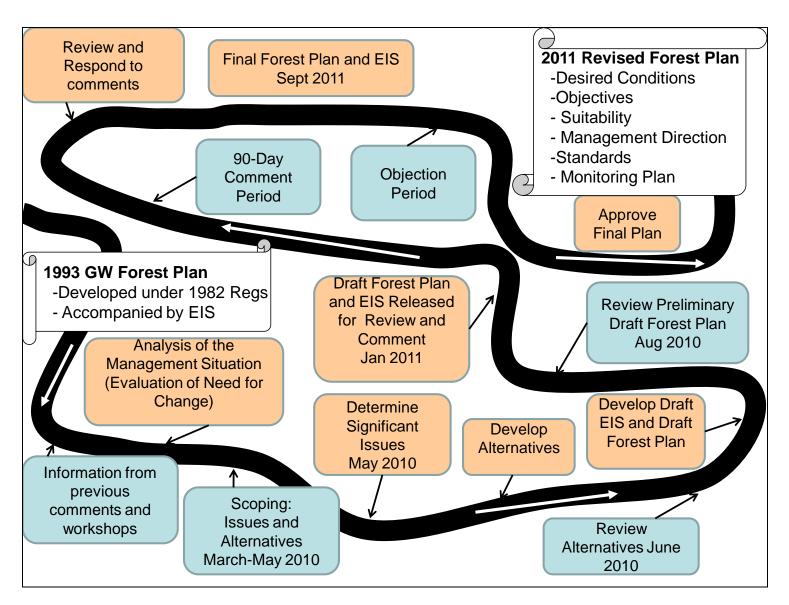
Allowable Sale Quantity

Monitoring and evaluation

Recommend areas Congress could designate as wilderness

Land availability for oil and gas leasing

Forest Plans make the following decisions:



Here is the new road map and schedule for the revision of the GW plan.

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

Scoping

Identify Issues

Identify Alternative ways to address the issues

Issues

Jefferson Plan Issues
Southern Appalachian Assessment Issues
GW Plan Issues
Issues from our past meetings

Tonight's meeting is to help us determine the scope of the analysis. We want to identify and clarify the issues that are important to you. Scoping identifies the real problems early in the process. Issues of smaller concern do not disproportionally consume time and effort. We also want to discuss what approaches we should take to address your issues.

We have already heard many issues. We heard them during our previous discussions on the GW revision, we have the issues from the Jefferson Plan revision completed a few years ago and we have the issues from the last GW Plan Revision.

While we have spent time working on issues in our previous meetings, we will now be developing an EIS with more extensive alternatives. We need to make sure we have all of the issues and alternative ways to address each significant issue.

Issues

- Terrestrial Plants and Animals and Their Associated Habitats
- Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive/Locally Rare Species
- Old Growth
- Riparian Area Management, Water Quality and Aquatic Habitats
- Drinking Water
- Wood Products

Issues

- Aesthetics/Scenery Management
- Recreation Opportunities/Experiences (remote recreation, hunting, OHV roads, ATV trails, bike use, equestrian use)
- Roadless Areas and Wilderness Management
- Forest Health
- Special Areas and Rare Communities

Here are some of the preliminary issues we have heard

Issues

- Access and Road Management
- Minerals
- Special Uses
- •Fire
- Air Quality
- •Wind Energy Development
- Climate Change
- •Non-Native Invasive Species

Significant Issues

Used to formulate alternatives Significant due to extent, duration or intensity

Non-Significant Issues

Standard procedures
Outside the scope
Affects small areas
Required by law

We will look at the issues and determine which are significant in relation to the EIS. What is a significant issue?

Preliminary Alternatives

Current (1993) GW Plan

Address Needs for Change - past meetings

More Remote Habitats and Recreation

Alternative comparison

Item	Current Plan	Need for Change	More Remote
Lands Suitable for Timber Production (Acres)	350,000	490,000	~150,000
Annual Timber Harvest Objective (Acres)	3,100	1,000 – 1,800	500 - 800
Annual Prescribed Burn Objective (Acres)	3,000	12,000 – 20,000	5,000 - 8,000
,			

Here are a few of the types of information that we would like to explore in alternatives and how they may vary

Alternative comparison

Item	Current Plan	Need for Change	More Remote
Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness(Acres)	43,000	63,000	200,000
Total Remote Backcountry Areas(Acres)	187,000	189,000	433,000
National Scenic Area and Recommended NSA (Acres)	8,000	8,000	105,000

Here are a few of the types of information that we would like to explore in alternatives and how they may vary

Things unlikely to change

Designated Areas (Wilderness)

Appalachian Trail

Special Interest Areas (Geologic, Riparian Areas)

Scenic Corridors

Administrative Sites (Utilities, Campgrounds)

About ¼ of the Forest

Key Biological Areas (Shenandoah Crest)

Need for Change

Opportunity to make the George Washington and Jefferson Plans more similar

Use similar management prescription areas (Desired Conditions and Standards)

George Washington
National Forest
Plan Revision

Scoping Comments Due May 7, 2010

Remaining Planning Workshops

Key Concepts of Public Involvement

Shared Learning
Building Relationships
Creating an Open and Transparent
Process

Increasing the understanding of the relationship between National Forest management and communities

One thing that hasn't changed with our regulations is our key concepts for public involvement.

George Washington
National Forest
Plan Revision

Visit Our Website

www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj

Posted on web

Evaluation of Need for Change (CER)
Basic Inventory Maps
Potential Wilderness Areas
Past Meeting Summaries
Past Comments
Jefferson building blocks
Diversity Analyses
Preliminary Alternative Information

Tonight's Meeting

Introduction/Presentation

Small Group Discussions

What issues do we need to address?

How would you like to see the issue addressed?

Back Together for Questions